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## **Embassy of the United States of America Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands**

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February 13, 2012 – for immediate release

### **“The United States Remains Committed to the Marshall Islands”**

I would like to join President Barack Obama in congratulating President Christopher J. Loeak and all the members of his new government. The United States looks forward to continuing our productive partnership as we strive for the shared goals of development and prosperity for the people of our two countries.

After more than 25 years of the Compact of Free Association, the relationship between the Marshall Islands and the United States remains comprehensive and durable. The Compact is the cornerstone of our bilateral relationship. Through the Compact, the United States supports Marshallese efforts to attain sustainable economic growth and an educated, healthy citizenry. The Compact supports the citizens of the Marshall Islands through an enormous range of resources and services of some 30 U.S. federal agencies. They include investments in health, education, and infrastructure; technical expertise on climate change, infectious diseases and disaster management; and services such as mail delivery and search and rescue missions. The overall value of U.S. commitments totals almost \$100 million annually, the equivalent of about \$1,800 for every citizen in the Marshall Islands.

But dollar figures alone cannot capture the depth of ties between our countries. Under the Compact, the United States is committed to defend the RMI and its people as it defends itself and its citizens. Many Marshallese citizens have chosen to join the U.S. military and serve alongside their American colleagues. Many thousands live and work in the U.S. under provisions of the Compact. Because of our shared values, the U.S. and the RMI frequently vote together on important issues in international organizations. These and other moral, historic and strategic bonds between our two countries provide a firm foundation for the future.

We cannot merely rest on the past strength and success of the U.S.-RMI relationship, however. Our countries confront new challenges that require creative solutions. What worked yesterday may be inadequate today and new priorities and solutions require communication and cooperation. Thankfully, the U.S. and Marshall Islands have a long history of collaboration, including since 2004 through the Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee (JEMFAC), the Trust Fund Committee, Joint Committee Meetings, and other bilateral fora where the RMI and U.S. governments work together in good faith to address issues of common concern. Equally important is the day-to-day communication between the

government and the Embassy, and in that regard I look forward to the continued close association I have with so many RMI Ministers and other government officials.

Our two countries share the same goal of helping the Marshall Islands become economically self sufficient and prosperous. To do so, we must strengthen local capacity, improve the investment climate, promote private business, and invest more effectively in the health and education of the country's citizens. Strengthened communication and collaboration are key. Moving forward, we must ensure our relationship remains dynamic enough to confront new challenges. I offer to President Loeak and his Cabinet the active cooperation and assistance of the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. government in achieving these goals.

Ambassador Martha Campbell  
U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands